

Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine Site Screen Report

This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits and pits. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites lands not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands but that are or may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.

The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, to record all immediate site information associated with the mine site and to document the recommendation and/or decision on what additional steps, if any, are needed at the site.

Silver Spur AUM Site

Navajo AUM Eastern Region

Prepared by:

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Contract: W91238-06-F-0083

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Part I Site Identification, Location and Status**Site Names and ID numbers as applicable****Mine ID:** 340**Map ID:** E71**CERCLIS:** NNN 000 908 752**NAMLRP:** NOT ASSIGNED**New Mexico Mining and Mineral Division ID:** NM0105**New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources:** NMMK0258, MNMMK0258**Local name / Aliases:** Silver Spur No. 1-5, Berryhill-Elkins, Small Stake, Silver Spur Group**Chapter and local area:** Baca/Haystack Chapter**Lat/Long:** 35.3985999876 N / -107.934767171 W**Nearby road and highway:** Red Mountain Road/Blackwood Road**Local Post Office:** Prewitt, NM**Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below**

Tribal Trust Land	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal Fee Land	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fee land	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public lands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bureau of Land Mgmt	<input type="checkbox"/>
State	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ownership and contact information:

No ownership was identified. The mine site property is classified as private land, but no residences were found within 0.25 miles of the site. New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division identifies the surface and mineral rights owner as the Berryhill Family.

Part II Site Observations

Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:

0 to 200 feet: None **200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:

0 to 200 feet: None **200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):

None

Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:

0 to 0.25 miles: None **0.25 miles to 4 miles:** None

Observed Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.

None observed

Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents.

Note information on mine ownership, period of operation, and type of mining operation.

The Silver Spur mine consists of an area of 13,409.77 square meters and an undetermined extent of underground workings. Any historical information pertaining to mining operations and historical ownership of the mine site appeared to be unclear. The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division identified the operator from 1952-1959 as Febco Mines; and in 1968 Farris Mines.

Part III Type, number and reclamation status of mine features

Provide description and reclamation status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all reclamation caps.

Reclamation status of the mine site is currently unknown. No visible signs of reclamation were observed. The mining operations appear to be a shallow pit dug into bedrock with underground operations through an adit observed at the north edge of the mine. Numerous waste rock piles remain around the mine and a tri-cone drill bit were observed during the site visit.

Part IV Summary of radiological readings**Background Locations**

#1 13,926 cpm

#2 22,640 cpm

#3 15,008 cpm

Mine site: Silver Spur

- See Figures 1 and 2

Nearby Structure Perimeter – None

Describe any other radiological measurements:

A total of 2,144 gamma radiation measurements were collected from mine sites, ranging from 9,538 cpm to 587,385 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2. The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division identified radiological measurements with level in the pits as 1,800-2,000 counts per second (cps); and the dump as 900 cps.

Part V Site sketch of all mine features and readings, including locations of all structures, sources of drinking water and any other important features and radiological readings.

Presented in Figures 1 and 2

Part VI Response Action Summary

Site Name(s): Silver Spur

Chapter: Baca/Haystack

Decision Criteria

Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site? Yes

At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located? 0.8 mile

At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources? 2.5 miles

Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site? No

Is the cap/seal functionally intact? N/A

Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases? N/A

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located? N/A

At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic drinking water source? N/A

Summary of emergency response factors

None

Summary hazard ranking system factors

None

Summary of reclamation factors

No known reclamation

Part VII Photos



Photo 1. Silver Spur Mine site, towards the northwest. Open pit and waste rock piles



Photo 2. Silver Spur Mine site, towards the south. Waste rock piles in background.



Photo 3. Silver Spur Mine site, tri-cone drill bit observed at site



Photo 4. Silver Spur Mine site, adit located at northern edge of mine

Part VIII Contacts Reports and InformationName Stanley EdisonTitle or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund ProgramAddress PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515Telephone number 928-871-6861Information provided General Background and Contact/Access Information

Name Susan A. Lucas KamatTitle or official role (if any) AUM Data Manager – New Mexico Mining & Mineral DivisionTelephone number (505) 476-3408 fx: (505) 476-3408Information provided Background information and findings from 2008 New Mexico MMD
Survey of mining sites.

Name _____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number _____

Information provided _____

Name _____

Title or official role (if any) _____

Telephone number _____

Information provided _____



